

**CITY OF LEXINGTON
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. 09-06

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL TO AMEND AIRPORT
CLASSIFICATIONS OF THE TWIN CITIES REGIONAL
AIRPORT SYSTEM PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council has established a Twin Cities Regional Airport System Plan identifying the classification of each airport within the system, among other things; and

WHEREAS, the classifications for the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) system of airports include: major, intermediate, and minor use airports; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council classification for minor use airports include: Anoka County-Blaine, Flying Cloud, Airlake, Crystal, Lake Elmo, and South St. Paul, with a primary runway length between 2,500 and 5,000 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council classification for intermediate use airports include St. Paul-Holman, with a primary runway length between 5,001 and 8,000 feet; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota statutes state the MAC shall not use revenue from any source for construction of air facilities to expand or upgrade the use of an existing metropolitan airport from minor use to intermediate use status without approval in a law. The law defines minor use airport as an airport with a runway or runways of length no longer than 5,000 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is proposing to amend the classifications of the MAC system of airports by splitting minor use airports into minor I and minor II categories that include new primary runway length definitions without limits within its category, and establishing a new primary runway length definition for intermediate use airports, the next higher category, beginning at 6,000 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council proposal to amend the classifications as discussed above creates ambiguity between runway length and the intent of state law; begins to erode safeguards on the type and size of aircraft that may use these minor airports and the associated noise impacts on surrounding communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Lexington that this City Council recommends that the Metropolitan Council abandon its proposal to amend

the classifications of the MAC system of airports by splitting minor use airports into minor I and minor II categories, and abandon the proposed primary runway length definitions without limits within each category, and abandon its proposal to establish a new primary runway length redefining intermediate use airports beginning at 6,000 feet and retain current state law.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Lexington this 16th day of April, 2009.



Don Valenta, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dot Heifort, City Administrator

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ANOKA
CITY OF LEXINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 08-16

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO ANY EXPANSION OF THE ANOKA
COUNTY-BLAINE AIRPORT

WHEREAS, Anoka County Board of Commissioners is giving consideration to a resolution that would support the effort to extend the east-west runway at the Anoka County-Blaine Airport to 6,000 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners' resolution proposes to support legislation that would allow for the extension of the runway; and

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners' resolution proposes to support application for Federal funds to accomplish the runway extension; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lexington has for the last twenty-five years opposed the expansion of the airport beyond 5,000 feet; and

WHEREAS, such expansion to 6,000 feet would necessitate changes in state law and would change the class of the airport from minor to intermediate; and

WHEREAS, it is safe for all minor airport aircraft to land within the existing runways at Anoka County-Blaine Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is required by law and has provided an Airport Development Guide that is required to take into consideration the physical, social and economic needs of the Metropolitan area and as a result of those considerations, the Airport Development Guide plan calls for the Anoka County-Blaine Airport to be a minor airport; and

WHEREAS, significant airport enhancements have already been made for the safety of aircraft that use minor airports, including an instrument landing system and an operational control tower; and

WHEREAS, these improvements were supposed to reduce the number of noise complaints, they have instead simply concentrated the number of inbound aircraft over the communities of Lino Lakes, Circle Pines and Lexington, as well as portions of Blaine; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the runway beyond minor use status would significantly increase the types of aircraft that could regularly utilize the Anoka County-Blaine Airport and would result in significant increases in noise to the residents of Lino Lakes, Circle Pines and Lexington; and

WHEREAS, the recent activity level increase related to the Republican National Convention demonstrated the significant impact any expansion of the airport would have as significant numbers of complaints occurred during that time period; and

WHEREAS, the existing tower control personnel do not have sufficient time to advise incoming aircraft of noise abatement procedures and that lack of noise abatement would only be exacerbated by expanded use of the airport; and

WHEREAS, the north-south runway is not permitted to be expanded until after 2020, all of the new traffic that the proposed expansion would bring about becomes focused over the communities of Lino Lakes, Circle Pines, Lexington and the portion of Blaine near the airport; and

WHEREAS, noise complaints about the airport have been a significant issue for Lexington residents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Lexington, Anoka County, Minnesota as follows:

1. The City Council will take appropriate steps to aggressively oppose any legislative attempts to expand the east-west runway at the Anoka County-Blaine Airport.
2. That the City Administrator is to forward the city's opposition to the proposed Anoka County resolution to the Anoka County Commissioners.
3. The City Administrator is directed to notify Legislators for Lexington of the City of Lexington's opposition to any expansion of the Anoka County-Blaine Airport.
4. The City Administrator is directed to take further steps as necessary to oppose any legislative changes to the Anoka County-Blaine Airport's minor airport status.

Adopted this 12th day of November, 2008.



Don Valenta, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dot Heifort, City Administrator